



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Department of Restorative Dentistry

Monthly Restorative Review

Department Newsletter Aug / Sept 2025



Dr. Hai Zhang will be departing the UW Department of Restorative Dentistry and joining the UT San Antonio as Professor and Chair, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry and the Prosthodontics Residency Program Director, starting on October 1st this year.

Dr. Zhang has been at UW for the past 21 years and served as a Professor, Vice Chair of the Department, Interim Director of the Graduate Prosthodontics program, Prosthodontics Lead, and Visiting Scholar Committee Chair. He received the ACP Geriatric Award, the International Association for Dental Research Morita Research Award, and NIH/NCRR/ITHS Joint Ignition Award. In addition, he has mentored several graduate students and visiting scholars who have received national and international awards. He has published extensively with more than 60 peer-reviewed articles and more than 10 book chapters. His areas of expertise includes clinical prosthodontics, tissue biology, and dental implantology. Furthermore, he has also been named as a co-inventor of two US patented biomimetic materials.

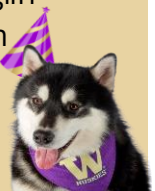
The Department had a Happy Hour with him on at Ivars on Tuesday Sept 23 and cake during lunch on Thursday Sept 25. We wishes Dr. Zhang the best in the next chapter of his career and congratulations on his new role at UT San Antonio. He will be missed by all of us.

Alvin G. Wee, DDS, PhD, Professor and Chair



Happy Birthday!

Dr. James Newman
Dr. Angela Chianglin
Dr. R Schwedhelm
Ms. Chris Toney



Spotlight on Emeritus Professor Rubenstein

Dr. Jeffrey Rubenstein, Professor Emeritus and Immediate Past Director of the UW Maxillofacial Prosthetic Service will begin his 36th year of affiliation with UWSOD and UWMC on November 1, 2025. In 1989, he left Harvard School of Dental Medicine and Boston Children's Hospital Craniofacial Team after serving on the faculty there for 10 years. There, he was a member of the first and only academically recognized Department of Implant Dentistry, one of the four original Nobel BioCare designated osseointegration treatment/training centers. His most notable research project was the nascent development of "immediate loading" with the publications (j. Oral Imp 1990; 16:96-05 & IJOMI 1997; 12:495-03) leading to the "All on Four" concept recognized today as a complete arch implant-based treatment option. He joined UWSOD with the goal of marrying



Mimi & Jeffrey Rubenstein

osseointegration with the prosthetic rehabilitation for patients requiring Maxillofacial Rehabilitation. That cutting edge effort evolved over his directorship of the UW Maxillofacial Prosthetic Service with advances that include stereo laser welding, CAD/CAM framework fabrication, virtual planning for immediate reconstruction/rehabilitation, and craniofacial implant retained extra-oral prostheses. He was fortunate to collaborate with Dr. Philip Worthington, UW Chair of OMFS for 25 years. "Phillip was more than a colleague, he was a counsel, friend, father-figure and weekly sushi partner" says Dr. Rubenstein. They consulted, treated, lectured together worldwide, co-authored publications, book chapters and a textbook.

Dr. Rubenstein earned his B.A. in Biological Sciences at Rutgers University in 1972, a D.M.D. from the first three-year accelerated program from Tufts University in 1975. He was honored to be mentored by Dr. Mohammed Mazaheri at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic and H.K. Cooper Center for Craniofacial Anomalies. He then participated in a three-year certificate program in Prosthodontics with emphasis on Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Masters' program in Biological Science at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston. The University of Washington offered a unique opportunity for exploration and professional growth. Dr. Rubenstein has lectured internationally in 12 countries and many times nationally and locally. He also participated in 45 publications, 6 book chapters, and 1 textbook. Professional affiliations currently include Life Membership in the American Board of Prosthodontists, American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (Past President), International Academy of Oral Facial Rehabilitation, American College of Prosthodontists, Academy of Prosthodontics, Washington State Society of Prosthodontists (Past President), and American and King County Dental Associations.

The opportunity to spend the bulk of his career in the State of Washington complimented his academic endeavors with wonderful experiences hiking in the summers and cross-country skiing in the winters. He is blessed to enjoy these experiences with Mimi his wife of 50 years. Gathering with their children Ryan and Lauren, and their three grandchildren, Sam, Emma, and Oliver offers great joy and fulfillment.

Congratulations!

UW Laureate

On July 31, the UW Office of the President sent a Laureate letter to Nobel Biocare.



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Ana Mari Cauce
Professor of Psychology
PRESIDENT

July 31, 2025

Tracy Glenn
Director of Institutions North America
Nobel Biocare

Dear Tracy,

On behalf of the University of Washington, thank you for the extraordinary commitment Nobel Biocare has made to advancing student opportunity and supporting medical research. It gives me great joy to inform you that with its recent gifts, your organization has attained the status of UW Laureate, an honor reserved for our philanthropic partners whose cumulative giving exceeds \$1 million.

Nobel Biocare's support of the University of Washington is helping drive cutting-edge research and innovation in restorative dentistry and prosthodontics, advancing faculty-led discovery and elevating the impact and reputation of School of Dentistry. Your partnership truly reflects the University's mission to improve lives through science, innovation and public service.

We look forward to celebrating you and Nobel Biocare as University of Washington Laureates at our UW Recognition Gala on September 5, 2025. Again, thank you for your tremendous support and impact.

Sincerely,

 **THANK YOU!**

cc: Mary Gresch, Senior Vice President for University Advancement
Debbie Knight, Associate Director of Dental Alumni and Corporate Relations, School of Dentistry
André Ritter, Dean, School of Dentistry

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Presentations

OMFS Grand Rounds

Our own **Dr. Alan Sutton** presented at the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Grand Rounds on August 20, 2025. His presentation topic was "Restoration of the Maxillary Defect."

Last Friday, 9/19, he shared a lecture to FHCC Oral Cancer Rehab Course: "Multidisciplinary Care in Oral Cancer Rehabilitation." The lecture was titled "Speech and Maxillofacial Prosthetics" and shared to 40-50 SLPs (and other disciplines) from all over the US, thus a national impact. It was well received according to the Course Director Jeff Edwards.



Dr. Alan Sutton

Visitor

Dr. Mengjie Wu, an orthodontist & Vice Dean of Stomatology Hospital, School of Medicine, Zhejiang University, paid our department a visit after her international meeting here in Seattle. She is also responsible for global education programs in the Hospital and is looking forward to more collaboration with UW.



Dr. Sadr and Dr. Chen were invited to present as keynote speakers at the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Taiwan Academy of Operative Dentistry from September 13-14, 2025.



Drs, Chan, Wee, and Wu

Events

Moses Lake Outreach

Our own **Dr. James Newman** and **Dr. Nan-Chieh Huang**, as well as Dr. Yung-Ting Hsu from Periodontics, hosted an outreach event in Moses Lake, WA on the 10th of May. Along with the three faculty, 10 students accompanied and saw 42 patients with the outreach total of 86 patients.



Institute of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Sangeetha Nedunchezian

I am grateful for the scholarship that enabled my attendance at the 2025 Institute of Teaching and Learning (ITL) four-day interactive course entitled "Confident and Creative Educators Committed to Advancing Outcomes," August 25-28, 2025, at the Freedom Conference Center in Chapel Hill, NC. ITL, a program of the Academy of Advanced Leadership, focuses on building confidence and skills to be a more effective educator in both the classroom and clinic. The curriculum included topics like the DISC model, developing an educational philosophy, mastering feedback, professional identity, Bloom's taxonomy, and the role of technology and AI in teaching. It was also an excellent networking opportunity, with many attendees supported by scholarships from their universities. The active case-based scenarios and small-group interactive discussions gave me substantial insight into what it takes to be a valuable educator in academia.



Events

Sailing Excursion with Dr. Tucker, 8/23/2025

Dr. Tucker kindly invited faculty and staff to spend a day sailing aboard "The Line Angle", and ten of us happily took him up on the offer! We were treated to a gorgeous, sunny day exploring the beautiful Bellingham coast. After a relaxing lunch and a chance to nap – or take a refreshing swim – at the Cove on Lummi Island, we set sail again for the return journey. The day wrapped up with a delicious barbecue at Dr. Tucker's stunning seaside home on the Chuckanut Shore. It was truly a memorable day filled with great company, sunshine, and sea breeze!

Dr. Susanne Jeffrey



News

Dr. Sami Dogan was featured in *The Washington Post* (August 15, 2025), providing expert commentary on emerging keratin-based technologies for enamel repair. The article also recognized Dr. Dogan's contributions to developing peptide-guided strategies designed to rebuild enamel and dentin through biologically integrated mineralization processes.

Sami Dogan, a professor of restorative dentistry at the University of Washington who was not involved in the study, called keratin “a very promising technology,” for enamel repair, but one that is in the very early stages of development and may still be a decade or more from reaching the market.

One clear advantage it would have, he said, is that “keratin from the get-go is very cheap and it’s also abundant.”

Dogan has been working with other researchers on a peptide, a short chain of amino acids, designed to rebuild worn tooth enamel and cover sensitive tissue with “mineral microlayers.” The technique would closely resemble the way the body develops teeth.

Dogan said he could foresee using both methods — the keratin scaffold and the peptide — to treat deep cavities.

Johnson, Mark, "The potential key to upgrading toothpaste? Sheep's wool and human hair." *The Washington Post*. August 15, 2025. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2025/08/15/keratin-tooth-enamel-repair-hair/>

Recognition



The International College of Dentists (ICD) USA Section Board of Regents recently conferred Fellowship status to faculty from our Department: **Dr. Amy Kim, Dr. Sami Dogan and Dr. Sangeetha Nedunchezian**. The ICD is one of the oldest and most prestigious honorary dental societies in the world, with fewer than 3% of the US dentists accepted for Fellowship. The Convocation took place on September 12 in San Diego, CA,

Drs. Amy Kim, Mary Smith (ICD Regent 11th District), Lizzy Hsu (Dept Periodontics), and Sami Dogan (left to right)

Awards

Dr. Timothy Hess

Congratulations to our affiliate associate professor, **Dr. Timothy Hess**, for his recent achievements.

- On April 18th, 2025, he received his Certified Dental Technician (CDT) in Digital Workflow from National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology.
- On July 12th, 2025, he received his 4th Life-Long Learning and Service Recognition from the Academy of General Dentistry.
- In the July Issue of AGD Impact, he received an award from Academy of General Dentistry for the “Constituent Recognition Program”. See excerpt below from page 5 of "AGD Impact, News for the General Dentist July 2025, Vol. 53, No.7

Constituents

Constituent Recognition Program Honors Dr. Timothy A. Hess

The Constituent Recognition Program's (CRP's) mission is to enhance the exposure and recognition of constituent successes and efforts throughout the year via AGD meetings, newsletters, local constituent meetings/events and other platforms to highlight the great initiatives of constituents at the grassroots level. This month, the CRP honors Timothy A. Hess, DDS, MAGD, of Washington AGD.

During the COVID-19 shutdown, Hess played a crucial role in planning and hosting Washington AGD's “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” series of free Zoom lectures. Over 11 weeks, Hess organized 56 different CE courses, totaling 108 hours of essential education. Remarkably, these sessions were accessed by more than 110,000 individuals, highlighting their widespread impact. Additionally, the Washington AGD YouTube channel, where the lectures now reside, boasts over 2,000 subscribers, further underscoring the series' significance in disseminating vital information during a challenging time. In his current role as CE director, Hess oversees Washington AGD's MasterTrack, FellowTrack, OrthoTrack, EndoTrack and Implantology programs, and he was instrumental in setting up and equipping Washington AGD's 10,000-square-foot education center.

Hess is a distinguished graduate of both the University of Alberta and the University of Washington, where he earned his DDS in 1994. A dedicated clinician and educator, Hess is currently affiliate assistant professor in both restorative dentistry and oral medicine at the University of Washington School of Dentistry, and he is the former director of the Richard V. Tucker Institute. Additionally, he mentors the Pacific Northwest Gnathology Study Club.

Hess remains deeply engaged in continuing education and professional development. He is set to receive his fourth Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition at AGD2025 in Montréal. In 2026, he will serve as president of the Canadian Academy of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics. Most recently, he earned the designation of certified dental technician in digital workflow from the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology, further underscoring his commitment to excellence in digital dentistry. Hess is an active member of numerous professional organizations, including the Academy of Operative Dentistry, American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, Pierre Fauchard Academy, International College of Dentists, American Academy of Gold Foil Operators and American College of Dentists.

- He became the President of the Canadian Academy of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics (CARDP) on August 23, 2025. Our 2026 Meeting is in Halifax. (<https://cardp.ca/welcome/>)



Dr. Timmy Hess on the left.

Recent Publications

- Yang T, **Chung KH**, Hu W, Yang F, Yang H, Zhou A, Tao A, Liu Z: Effect of photofunctionalization on the aged titanium by using ultraviolet light: Hg-vapor versus light-emitting diode-based irradiation. *Chemical EngineeringJ* 522: 167186.
- Wadhvani CPK, Hess D, O'Brien R, **Chung KH**: Effect of adding a peak marker device to an implant cantilever beam torque wrench on torque value measurement. *J Prosthetic Dentistry* 2025 – In Press (PMID: 40897558)
- Hess DP, **Wadhvani C, Chung KH, Wee AG**: A practical approach to determine preload in dental implant systems. *J Prosthetic Dentistry* 2025 – In Press.
- Prasad S, Koseoglu M, Antonopoulou S, Sears LM, Launardo V, Ariani N, Mirza NZ, Colebeck A, ZarayazganB, Kresinski M, **Wee AG**, Sukotjo C: Readability and performance of AI chatbot responses to frequently asked questions in maxillofacial prosthodontics. *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* – In Press.
- Gan Y, Yuan Y, Gong Y, Fang Q, Guangjun L, Li Y, Cao D, **Chan DCN**, Feng J: Feasibility and safety of a novel laser-induced adhesive for orthodontic debonding. *Dent Materials* 2025 – In Press.
- **Taylor S**, Miller C, Daley JO. Oral Health Considerations for Patients With Systemic Disease. 2025 Aug 2. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2025 Jan–. PMID: 40811607.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK617063/>
- **Chan DCN**, Kwon SR, Meharry M (Guest Editors), Special Issue on Bleaching. *Am J Dentistry*; 2025: p1A-44A.
- K. Hooi, C. Dong & **D.C.N. Chan**: Artificial intelligence's role in dentistry and dental bleaching. *Am J Dentistry*, Online Sept 2025.
- **D.C.N. Chan** & D. Cao: Updates on non-peroxide dental bleaching agents. *Am J Dentistry*, Online Sept 2025, Online Sept 2025.
- J. Newman, T. Youn, M. Suk, C. Dong, J. Lu, M. Sample, I. Yang & **D.C.N. Chan**: Assessments of a novel bleaching agent containing sodium dithionite: A laboratory study. *Am J Dentistry*, Online Sept 2025, Online Sept 2025.

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Design and Layout Editing: Vincent Tran
Copy Editing: Chris Toney